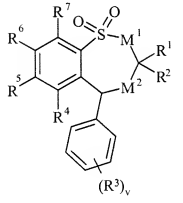
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)**:



(I)

wherein

$\mathbf{M^1}$ is $-CH_2-$ ~~or $-NR^{24}-$~~;

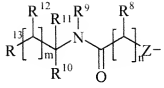
$\mathbf{M^2}$ is ~~$-CR^{22}R^{23}-$ or~~ $-NR^{24}-$; ~~provided that if M^1 is $-NR^{24}-$, M^2 is $-CR^{22}R^{23}-$;~~

one of $\mathbf{R^1}$ and $\mathbf{R^2}$ is selected from hydrogen~~,~~ or C_{1-6}alkyl ~~or C_{2-6}alkenyl~~ and the other is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl ~~or C_{2-6}alkenyl~~;

$\mathbf{R^3}$ is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl$S(O)_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl;

v is 0-5;

~~one of~~ $\mathbf{R^5}$ ~~and $\mathbf{R^6}$~~ is a group of formula **(IA)**:



(IA)

$\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^7}$ are hydrogen;

~~and the other of $\mathbf{R^5}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$~~ is ~~are independently selected from~~ hydrogen or methylthio~~, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl; wherein $\mathbf{R^4}$ and $\mathbf{R^7}$ and the other of $\mathbf{R^5}$ and $\mathbf{R^6}$ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more $\mathbf{R^{25}}$~~;

Z is -O-~~, -N($\mathbf{R^a}$)-, -S(O)$_b$- or -CH($\mathbf{R^a}$)-; wherein $\mathbf{R^a}$ is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl and b is 0-2~~;

$\mathbf{R^8}$ is hydrogen~~, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein $\mathbf{R^8}$ may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from $\mathbf{R^{26}}$; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from $\mathbf{R^{27}}$~~;

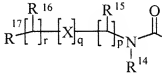
$\mathbf{R^9}$ is hydrogen~~ or C_{1-4}alkyl~~;

$\mathbf{R^{10}}$ is ~~and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ are independently~~ selected from cyclohexyl and phenyl~~ hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; or $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ together form C_{2-6}alkylene; wherein $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ or $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ together may be independently~~ optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from $\mathbf{R^{28}}$~~; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more $\mathbf{R^{29}}$~~;

$\mathbf{R^{10}}$ ~~and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$~~ is ~~are independently~~ selected from hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl~~; or $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ together form C_{2-6}alkylene; wherein $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ or $\mathbf{R^{10}}$ and $\mathbf{R^{11}}$ together may be independently~~ optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from $\mathbf{R^{28}}$; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more $\mathbf{R^{29}}$;

~~R^{12} is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclyl; wherein R^{12} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{30}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an –NH– moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by one or more R^{31};~~

R^{13} is ~~hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{32}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{33}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{13} may be optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{36}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an –NH– group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{37}; or R^{13} is~~ a group of formula **(IB)**:



(IB)

wherein:

~~**X** is –N(R^{38})–, –N(R^{38})C(O)–, –O–, and –S(O)$_a$–; wherein a is 0, 2 and R^{38} is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;~~

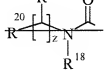
R^{14} is hydrogen ~~or C_{1-4}alkyl~~;

R^{15} hydrogen;

~~and~~ R^{16} ~~is are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano,~~ hydroxy~~, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino,~~

~~C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclic group, wherein R^{45} and R^{46} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{44}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{42};~~

R^{17} is ethyl, ~~selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{43}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{44}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-~~; wherein R^{17} is ~~may be optionally~~ substituted on each carbon of the ethyl group by one substituent ~~or more substituents~~ selected from R^{47}, wherein R^{47} is hydroxy; ~~and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{48}; or R^{17} is a group of formula (IC):~~



~~(IC)~~

~~wherein:~~

R^{18} ~~is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;~~

R^{19} ~~is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl,~~

~~*N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, carbocyclyl or heterocyclic group; where R^{19} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more substituents selected from R^{51}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an –NH– group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{52};~~

R^{20} ~~is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_c$-R^{53}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_d$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{54}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_n$-; wherein R^{20} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{57}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an –NH– group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{58};~~

p is 1~~-3; wherein the values of R^{15} may be the same or different~~;

q is 0~~-1~~;

r is ~~0-~~3; ~~wherein the values of R^{16} may be the same or different;~~

m is 0~~-2~~; wherein the values of R^{12} may be the same or different;

n is 1~~-2; wherein the values of R^{8} may be the same or different~~;

z is 0-3; wherein the values of R^{19} may be the same or different;

R^{21} is selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{22} and **R^{23}** are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, mercapto, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2;

R^{24} is ~~selected from~~ hydrogen~~, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy and C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy~~;

R^{25} is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy,

N-(C_{1-4}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-4}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-4}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)sulphamoyl and *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl; wherein R^{25}, may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{67};

R^{26}, **R^{28}**, **R^{30}**, **R^{36}**, **R^{41}**, **R^{47}**, **R^{51}** and **R^{57}** are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, hydroxyaminocarbonyl, C_{1-10}alkyl, C_{2-10}alkenyl, C_{2-10}alkynyl, C_{1-10}alkoxy, C_{1-10}alkanoyl, C_{1-10}alkanoyloxy, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$amino, *N,N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_3$ammonio, C_{1-10}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-10}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-10}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-10}alkoxycarbonylamino, carbocyclyl, carbocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, heterocyclic group, heterocyclylC_{1-10}alkyl, carbocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_e$-R^{59}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_f$- or heterocyclyl-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_g$-R^{60}-(C_{1-10}alkylene)$_h$-; wherein R^{26}, R^{28}, R^{30}, R^{36}, R^{41}, R^{47}, R^{51} and R^{57} may be independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{63}; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- group, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a group selected from R^{64};

R^{27}, **R^{29}**, **R^{31}**, **R^{37}**, **R^{42}**, **R^{48}**, **R^{52}**, **R^{58}** and **R^{64}** are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, sulphamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, benzyl, phenethyl, benzoyl, phenylsulphonyl and phenyl;

R^{32}, **R^{33}**, **R^{43}**, **R^{44}**, **R^{53}**, **R^{54}**, **R^{59}** and **R^{60}**are independently selected from -O-, -NR^{65}-, -S(O)$_x$-, -NR^{65}C(O)NR^{66}-, -NR^{65}C(S)NR^{66}-, -OC(O)N=C-, -NR^{65}C(O)- or -C(O)NR^{65}-; wherein R^{65} and R^{66} are independently selected from hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and x is 0-2;

R^{63} and **R^{67}** re independently selected from halo, hydroxy, cyano, carbamoyl, ureido, amino, nitro, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, vinyl, allyl, ethynyl, methoxycarbonyl, formyl, acetyl, formamido, acetylamino, acetoxy, methylamino, dimethylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl,

N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, methylsulphinyl, mesyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl and *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl; and

e, **f**, **g** and **h** are independently selected from 0-2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)** according to claim 1 wherein R^{22} and R^{23} are independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxy; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)** according to claim 1 wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is ~~are~~ C_{1-4}alkyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)** according to claim 1 wherein v is 0; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claims 8-11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): A compound of formula **(I)** according to claim 1 selected from:

(+/-)-trans-1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine;

~~(+/-) trans-1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-5-phenyl-7-methylthio-8-(*N*-{(R)-α-[*N*-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]benzyl}carbamoylmethoxy)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-1,4-benzothiazepine;~~

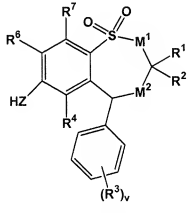
~~1,1-dioxo-3-ethyl-3-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-phenyl-7-(*N*-{α-[*N*'-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-2-fluorobenzyl}carbamoylmethylthio)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydrobenzothiepine; or~~

~~1,1-dioxo-3-butyl-3-ethyl-4-hydroxy-5-phenyl-7-(*N*-{1-[*N*'-(2-(S)-3-(R)-4-(R)-5-(R)-2,3,4,5,6-pentahydroxyhexyl)carbamoyl]-1-(cyclohexyl)methyl}carbamoylmethylthio)-2,3,4,5-tetrahydrobenzothiepine;~~

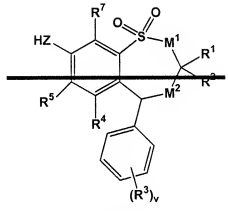
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof.

Claim 13 (currently amended and withdrawn): A process for preparing a compound of formula **(I)** or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a prodrug~~ thereof, as claimed in claim 1, which process ~~(wherein variable groups are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in claim 1)~~ comprises of:

Process 1): for compounds of formula **(I)** ~~wherein Z is –O–, NR^a or –S–~~; reacting a compound of formula **(IIa)** ~~or (IIb)~~:

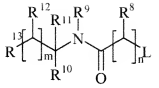


(IIa)



~~**(IIb)**~~

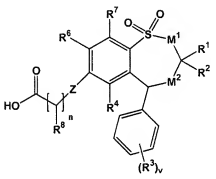
with a compound of formula **(III)**:



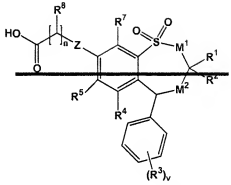
(III)

wherein L is a displaceable group;

Process 2): reacting an acid of formula **(IVa)** ~~or (IVb)~~:

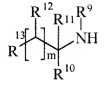


(IVa)



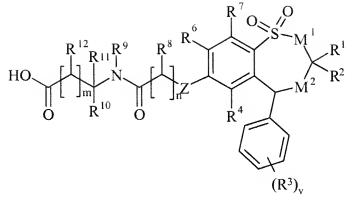
~~**(IVb)**~~

~~or an activated derivative thereof~~; with an amine of formula **(V)**:



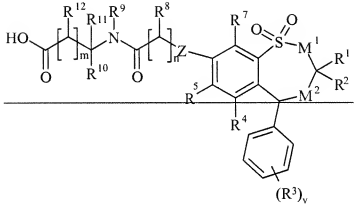
(V);

Process 3): for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^{13} is a group of formula **(IB)**; reacting an acid of formula **(VIa)**:



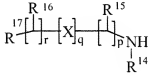
(VIa)

~~or (VIb):~~



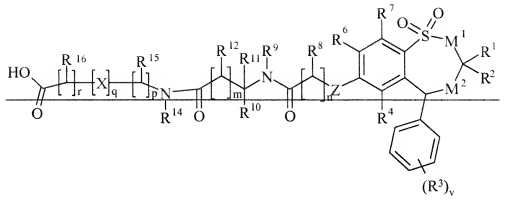
~~**(VIb)**~~

with an amine of formula (VI):



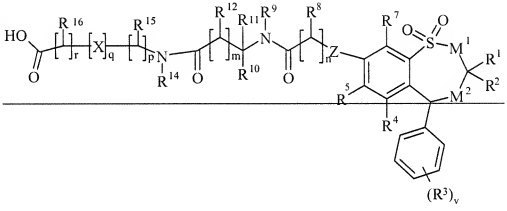
(VI); or

~~*Process 4):* for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein R^{13} is a group of formula **(IB)** and R^{17} is a group of formula **(IC)**; reacting an acid of formula **(VIIIa):**~~



~~(VIIIa)~~

~~or **(VIIIb)**~~

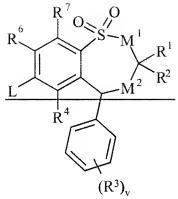


~~(VIIIb)~~

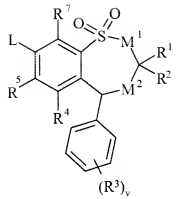
~~or an activated derivative thereof; with an amine of formula **(IX)**:~~

~~(IX)~~

Process 4) ~~5)~~ for compounds of formula **(I)** wherein ~~one of~~ R^5 ~~and~~ R^6 is methylthio ~~are independently selected from C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{25}~~; reacting a compound of formula **~~(Xa) or~~ (Xb)**:



~~**(Xa)**~~



(Xb)

wherein L is a displaceable group; with a thiol of formula **(XI)**:

R^m-H

(XI)

wherein R^m is methylthio~~C_{1-6}alkylthio optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^{25}~~;

and optionally:

i) converting a compound of the formula **(I)** into another compound of the formula **(I)**;

ii) removing any protecting groups;

iii) forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or a prodrug.

Claims 14 to 17 (cancelled).

Claim 18 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of formula **(I)**, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide ~~a~~ prodrug thereof, as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 11,~~ in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 19 to 25 (cancelled).